



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GOVERNOR PROCLAIMS SEPTEMBER AS DEAF AWARENESS MONTH

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Governor Phil Bredesen has proclaimed September as a “Deaf Awareness Month” to generate awareness about the talents and abilities of those who are deaf, hard of hearing or deafblind.

Deaf individuals have impacted our nation in many ways.

- John Gregg, a deaf man, created shorthand.
- Carl Anderson, a deaf cartoonist, created the cartoon strip, “Henry”.
- William Hoy, a deaf baseball player for the Cincinnati Reds, created the popular hand gestures that signal strikes and balls.
- A student athlete at Gallaudet University, the only liberal arts college in the world for the deaf, created the “huddle” for the sport of football.
- Ludwig Von Beethoven was totally deaf when he finished composing the Ninth Symphony.

Some may say that not being able to hear is an obvious disability. However, when you ask a deaf individual if that lack of hearing is a disability, they would likely say “no.” Because spoken words are not heard by the deaf, the real “disability” is this barrier of communication that makes life challenging. Once the communication barrier is removed through sign language, interpreters and technology, a whole new world of opportunity opens to the 22 million Americans who are deaf.

Because language is the basis for culture, those who use sign language for their communication have a different culture than those who don’t. This communication and cultural barrier can be crossed with the assistance of an interpreter, by reading literature and books regarding the deaf culture, and simply by asking questions of deaf individuals.

The Tennessee Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (TCDHH) is also celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year. Enacted by law in 1978, TCDHH has been instrumental in improving interpreting services, telephone access and laws in Tennessee. The Council gathers statistics from across the State regarding the deaf, hard of hearing and the deafblind population and identifies services that might assist these individuals. TCDHH also serves as a bureau of information for those seeking answers to questions regarding sign language classes, deaf culture, hearing aids and various support groups. Lastly, the Council advises on legislation which may affect members of the deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind communities.

Deaf Awareness Month is a time to be aware of the language, culture and history of deaf Tennesseans. Celebrate and learn at various activities happening across the state during September.

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CITIZENS PLAZA, 15TH FLOOR
400 DEADERICK STREET
NASHVILLE, TN 37248
615.313.4700

For more information on events in your area, please contact one of the following centers:

Communication Center f/t Deaf & Hard of Hearing

112 E. Myrtle Avenue, Suite 503
Johnson City, TN 37601
Telephone: (423) 434-0447
TTY: (423) 434-0448
Fax: (423) 434-0880
E-Mail: ccdhh@frontierhealth.org

Knoxville Area Community Center for the Deaf

3731 Martin Mill Pike
Knoxville, TN 37920-2452
Telephone: (865) 579-0832
TTY: (865) 573-5640
Fax: (865) 577-0656
E-Mail: kaccd@comcast.net

**Partnership for Families, Children and
Adults**

Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

1801 Duncan Avenue / PO Box 11318
Chattanooga, TN 37401
Telephone: (423) 697-3842
TTY: (423) 697-3831
Fax: (423) 697-3846
llawson@partnershipfca.com

League for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

415 4th Avenue South
Nashville, TN 37201-2156
Telephone: (615) 248-8828 (V & TTY)
TTY: (615) 244-0979 (24-hour TTY)
Fax: (615) 248-4797
E-Mail: league@ldhh.org

Jackson Center for Independent Living, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services

231-E North Parkway
Jackson, TN 38305
Telephone: (731) 664-3986
TTY: (731) 664-3970
Fax: (731) 668-0406
E-mail: jdhs@j-cil.com

Interpreting Services for the Deaf, Inc.

144 North Bellevue
Memphis, TN 38104
Telephone: (901) 278-9307
TTY: (901) 278-9308
Fax: (901) 278-9301
E-Mail: isdmemphis@aol.com